

Stockton is justly proud of these advantages, and by them, all the people within reach are very materially helped.

God has wisely given to each place, the blessings suited to its needs, and all people have abundant reason to praise his holy name. "O that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men."

Lathrop, Calif.

#### A BRETHREN FOREIGN MISSION.

G. A. COPP.

The question of sending out missionaries to foreign lands, I am glad to say, is working in the hearts and minds of our brethren. I do not wish to weary any one with an exhaustive article on the necessity of the work; for any one who has the good of the cause at heart,—for the conversion of heathens, for the saving of benighted, dying humanity—will at once see the necessity of the work without exhaustive letters on the subject.

I believe ample means can be secured in a short time to send out soon, one or more missionaries. I further believe that each District Conference, with possibly California and Michigan excepted, can send out one or more foreign missionaries.

The Conference of Indiana and Virginia, can do it, and I believe will do it in course of time. Already \$60 per year for five years has been pledged for the work and this amount by three children of one family. Indiana has subscribed \$200 and I feel confident that the entire amount will be raised before another year closes.

We want men and women to make sacrifices for the cause. In all the old scriptures sacrifices were required of God's people. Our blessed Lord gave himself a sacrifice for our sakes, and our hearts must be void of love if we do not show our appreciation of this unfeigned love by helping to enlarge God's kingdom here on the earth. Indeed, if we love the Lord with all our heart, soul mind and strength we will give voluntarily to the work, and "not of necessity." How many brethren have we who chew and smoke tobacco that will quit these pernicious habits and give the same amount expended for tobacco per year to foreign missions? And if you fail to do this, or give an equivalent amount, I fear, you love to gratify your own lusts more than the extension of God's kingdom on the earth. How many brethren have we who wear silk hats and prince albert coats, who will wear cheaper hats, and cutaway coats and give this excess, or its equivalent, to missions? If this is not done, it looks very much as if we love to be seen

more of man than of God, and we love the "long garments" of man more than the "well done" praise of God. How many sisters have we who wear artificials on their hats and chewing gum in their mouths who will dispense with these superfluities and give the equivalent to missions? We have plenty of such, I believe, to fully equip and send out a missionary of itself if this foolish expense were better applied. And if such fail to do so I fear they love the world more than they fear God. The idea is prevalent among some members of some churches to keep up appearances and thereby try to deceive God and man, but God cannot be mocked nor deceived. The Lord knows where our heart is. And if it is in heaven we will seek to help on the heavenly work, but if of the world, it will not be much concerned about heavenly things. I believe we can raise the full amount for a missionary to India, by the simple self denial of the lust of the flesh and pride of life. But whether this is done or not there are those who have consecrated their means to God who will "willingly" contribute to the work and send out a missionary themselves if no one else gives a cent.

There are some who claim we don't raise the funds to mention the work, but those some persons likely can raise funds to buy the latest fad in fashions, latest improved machinery or household goods, and if God's cause has to go begging or not go at all.

Next, who will go? The scriptures bid us to present our bodies a *living* sacrifice unto God. And if we seek to save our lives we shall lose them. Now what better way can we present our bodies a living sacrifice unto God than go to some heathen land and preach Christ?

If I mistake not we have a noble selection already appointed for this work in brother J. C. Mackey. Our prayers and fastings have been answered for the Lord to send laborers in the field, and if only a few did fast and pray. God is working out problems too difficult for us. He will teach the heart and mind of his people and a sufficient amount will be raised to send out a Foreign Missionary and that, too, without resorting to questionable means to raise it. May the Lord work mightily in our hearts to accomplish the work.

Fishers Hill, Va.

#### CHARITY.

Charity, the greatest of the Christian graces, does not simply mean almsgiving. It means faith, purity, truth, mercy, patience, meekness, sympathy, long-suffering and love, the greatest of these being

love. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." This is the first and great commandment, and the second is like unto it. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Love is the strongest force contained in the soul, and is the greatest sustaining power under all conditions in life. And if our hearts are so filled with love, that we follow these two commandments implicitly, sin will find no resting place within us, and we will seek to do good at all times, and to all people, especially to those who are of the household, of faith. To love thy neighbor as thyself, means that we should do unto our neighbor, as we would have our neighbor to do unto us. We should not avenge nor bear any malice against our neighbors, neither should we envy nor think evil of them, but deal fairly with them in all things. And more than all else should we share our blessings with the poor. "For he that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth unto the Lord." It has been said that it is more blessed to give than to receive. For those who are in a position to give, are more greatly blessed than those who have to receive. But all gifts, however excellent, are nothing without charity. We are not to give for show, or grudgingly, or of necessity, "but with a cheerful spirit, and a good conscience, and faith unfeigned." We should give of such things as we have, not that which we do not want, or can not use, but to deny ourselves if need be, that we may do some real good to the deserving poor. We should not turn from our own kin, for charity ought to begin at home, though it should not end there. Neither should we turn the stranger from our door. And we are not only to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless, but we ought to minister to the sick and afflicted, comfort those in sorrow, rescue the fallen, encourage the discouraged, cheer the lonely, and be kind and forgiving to all. "Owe no man anything but to love one another, for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

### The Sunday School.

#### THREE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF DAVID.

[Read at Sunday School entertainment by David Bailey.]

Again I appear before you as the representative of the "Silver" side of the house. The "Gold" party seems to have the ascendancy here this evening, but the "Silver" to which I allude is something of